

November 1, 1971

Dear Hal,

Appreciated your nice note re my letter to Mrs. Butler. I am glad you found it excellent, and just hope it gets the job done. It was mailed October 6 with all the trimmings-- air mail special delivery, certified with return receipt requested, in a large manila envelope marked "Urgent". They can't ignore it. I just hope they answer it. The return receipt came back a week or so ago, and it was signed by no less than Mr. Ed Butler himself! So at least we know it got their attention. Their cooperation may be a different story, but I hope not, and I really do hope. Oh no of course I didn't indicate copies to you, and Rev. Holland, who is a close personal friend of long standing, and a fine man. I hope you can meet him when you're down here.

Which leads me right into something I wanted to say very much. Harold, I would consider it a deep personal honor and privilege to have you as a guest in my home at any time, for as long as you can stay. Not to sound like Garrison, but I thought I had made that clear months ago! I mean it. When can you come? The sooner the better!! You mention resuming your investigations in New Orleans. Fascinating. Can you be more specific? Do you really think we could dig up something? I say "we" because I would be most happy to assist in any way possible. I hope you know that already. And surely after all this time, and as close friends as we are now, you wouldn't hesitate to ask a favor of me. Don't! You are aware of both the respect I have for you and the deep conviction I have and determination to discover the full truth about the three assassinations and to bring the real killers to justice. With so much time passing so quickly, this has to transcend the usual courtesies and amenities we otherwise extend each other. So just tell me what you need, and if I can I'll do it. There is much more we need to discuss on this subject, but it will have to wait until we're together, I suppose.

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If I can, I will try to get airline, bus, and train schedule information and enclose. (If it's not in this envelope, it'll be in a later one to follow shortly.) The train I took up there was very good, club car to Atlanta and a glass dome car the rest of the way. Cost about \$80 as I recall. The bus would probably be alot cheaper, but it's hell on your back and leg muscles, and is definitely inadvisable if your bursitis is acting up again. If you think you could stand it, though, they do stop at every hole in the road, so maybe you could get out and stretch, and get here at a decent hour (although I wouldn't mind if it's 3 a.m.!)-- Also, you could probably save by having your wife drive you in to Washington, and then just get a ticket to Hattiesburg, and I can pick you up here and take you down. Another alternative which I wouldn't mind in the least would be for me to come get you. We could share on the driving on the way back here. Either or both ways I'd be happy to do it. I have made it to Atlanta once with a non-driver, going all night to pick up her husband, and we got there about 6 a.m. It was in the process of a conscientious objector case in the Air Force, which will interest you, and one in which I was deeply committed and involved to the end. It was highly successful, and resulted in the Air Force's apology. I feel a thousand times more dedicated when it comes to you. Try to bring as much of your working notes files as you can for this New Orleans investigation, and we'll have plenty of time to talk while we're driving. If your wife could come, that would be twice as good. There are two warm beds and a large living room and dining room with a huge table for you to work on. You can spread out all your papers and everything. I've got it all planned. All you have to do is write me (or call collect-- 863-3323 in Long Beach on weekends, 544-4782 in Hattiesburg), and let me know when to meet you. Yes, Interstate 10 is fairly complete now, and I can usually make it in ~~a little over an hour~~ **a little over an hour** at the most, to New Orleans. You are so right about the rent-a-cars! They're a total rip-off; I'm sorry I couldn't have warned you. They fleece any and all comers, designed primarily for the expense account executives. I know they're that way in New Orleans, and Mississippi as well. That's one reason I don't live in N.O. anymore. So, I will drive you each day, and stay with you when you need me, and wait out in the car at other times. Also, I have two tape recorders you can use. This way there will be no problem and it will avoid some of the confusion. The timing I will leave to your good judgment. On weekdays I will probably need to attend classes up here, so during the week, like on Monday, you might have to drive me up here (only an hour's drive from Long Beach), and then come get me Friday afternoon. But those are details, let's don't worry about them till you get here; we can work it out. Try to let me know the exact date and time of your arrival as soon as possible.

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I will not try to argue or persuade you. But I do hope you'll come, as soon as you can. By the way, I have vacations coming from the 20th to the 30th of this month, and the 17th of next to Jan. 3rd, if you want to come in there when I'll be home full time. Before you come, I'll try to get an excuse to go to N.O. and see Louis Ivon and ask him about that rumor you mentioned earlier that Garrison doesn't want you to come back. Let me know if I can be doing anything else in the meantime to prepare for your coming here.

I realize, too, Harold, that although we've been good friends a long time, that you've only seen me once, and talked on the phone in Washington a few times, so although this is the perfect opportunity you may be a little apprehensive, feeling you don't know me well enough. First of all, as soon as I can get to it, I will try to send you a snapshot of the house and my car so you can see it's hardly some little shack out in the woods with an old jalopy parked in front. On the second matter, I think the best thing for me to tell you to do, if you want to, is to call my good friend, Rev. Charles E. Holland, pastor of the Long Beach Presbyterian Church. I've known him for years, and he knows me better than anyone. His office phone at the church is (601) 863-7633, from about 9 to noon. And he's usually home for lunch and evenings, at 864-6717. If he's not there, his wife or family know me real well also, or you could have him call you back.

I have just finished reading Frame-up. It is dynamite. By far your best work, in my judgment. You have done much more than I thought. Much I need to say, but it can wait till you're here. It came in the mail, and it will probably not amuse you as it did me to learn that it came in the same box as A Fool For A Client, by Roy Cohn. Your book kept me up all night last week, and the better part of the next day. I could not put it down. I'll let the rest wait. Bud was still optimistic the last time I talked with him, but that was before his motion for a "new" trial was denied in Tennessee. What is the latest status? Is he going to try to take it into Federal court? Also, what is the status of your civil suits under the Freedom of Info act?

Well, must go now, and hope I'll be meeting you somewhere soon, and we can get together again. Till then, hope this finds you well.

Your friend always,

P.S. Can you cook at all? If so, we could go halvers on groceries and I'll wash the dishes. Otherwise, we'll eat out!

Jim Brown

Handwritten:

THE FOLLOWING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS SERVE HATTIESBURG:

(1) SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

ONE WAY FARE: \$86.00

LV WASH DC 10:05 AM

AR HATTIESBURG 4:08 PM

Change planes in N.O.; Also some flights thru Atlanta and Memphis w/ changes in Meridian (about an hour's drive from Hattiesburg).

(2) DELTA AIRLINES

ONE WAY FARE: \$61.00

LV WASH NAT'L TERM 10:00 PM

AR MOISANT - NEW ORLEANS 12:38 AM

No service to Hattiesburg.

(3) GREYHOUND

ONE WAY - \$36.65

ROUND TRIP - \$69.65

Complete schedule enclosed.

(4) SOUTHERN CRESCENT RR

My roommate + I drove to pick up schedules + mail this from downtown but the train station was closed.